

Community Manpower Mobilization Committee

Essex, Hudson and Union Counties, New Jersey

1060 Broad Street

Newark 2, New Jersey

MArket 3-4165

March 31, 1945

To All Contributors

And Members of the Community Manpower Mobilization Committee

Dear Friends:

Our Planning and Operating Committee wants you to be brought up to date on the manpower situation in the Hudson, Essex, and Union County Area, and on the activities of your Community Manpower Mobilization Committee.

Following our bulletin of December 18, 1944, setting forth the appeals of the Army and the Navy for our Committee to act as a community task force to put on a campaign to have war workers stick to their jobs and to get more people to take war jobs, a very vigorous campaign was started. \$109,393.00 was obtained by voluntary contributions to your Committee. Over a dozen sub-committees were formed and assigned specific tasks as we set out in an effort to stop the drift of employment away from war industry, and to get 16,000 additional workers for key war industry in the Area.

The Area Director of the War Manpower Commission and his staff and the Army cooperated in outstanding fashion. Trained, experienced officers were detailed to the Area. A branch office of the Army Service Forces was opened. More than a score of battle-scarred veterans were assigned as speakers; battle action pictures and publicity men were made available. Everything that human ingenuity and effort could conceive was done to wake up the Area—to persuade people to stick to their war jobs—and to get a war job if they didn't have one.

Every motion picture house cooperated: movie shorts of special subjects were made; speakers in uniform addressed the audiences.

15 big rallies were held at which a heart-stirring Army show was staged. An impressive, large exhibit of war goods was held in the Elizabeth Armory; a B-29, a robot bomb, and other military aircraft were publicly displayed at the Newark Airport. Well over 200 additional meetings were held throughout the Area.

The need for war workers was mentioned in every church pulpit; local radio stations featured the drive several times every day; the newspapers cooperated magnificently. Special newspaper advertisements appeared at frequent intervals; bus cards—both inside and outside of buses and trolleys—completely covered the Area . . . as did billboard advertisements. The urgent need for more war workers was thoroughly brought home to the 1,750,000 people resident in the Area.

The results of that campaign can be definitely appraised:

Before the campaign started, the Area was experiencing an average net loss of 400 workers per day. On January 3, 1945, that loss was stopped. That was the first day in months in which there had been a net, over-all gain in war goods employment. So, on that date, we could say that the first objective of the task force had been achieved—the over-all drift away had been counteracted.

The second objective of the task force—to increase over-all war goods employment in key war industries by 16,000—has been only partly successful. From January 2, 1945 through March 23, 1945 the net gain in war goods employment in approximately 300 key war industries in the Area was 3,774.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the main job of our Committee has been to increase the output of war goods from the Area. Using that all-important fact as a measure of accomplishment, the campaign has been very successful—for the War Production Board in this Area informs us that in January, in February, and in March, war goods production has been exceptionally good, carrying on to new high levels.

On February 7, 1945, feeling that the campaign had routed into war jobs all who would voluntarily take war goods employment, the War Manpower Commission placed the "Minatory" Plan in operation. "Minatory" is defined as "threatening." The program called for a reduction on ceilings of employment for less-essential employers, causing the release of employees and the contemplated transfer of employees so released to employment in essential war industry. This plan went into effect at the same time that a great deal of inconclusive talk was taking place in the legislative halls in Washington concerning manpower legislation.

Our Planning and Operating Committee felt that your Committee was not justified in continuing its high rate of expenditures on a voluntary basis in the face of the Minatory Plan and the widespread publicity that was being given to the proposed manpower legislation in Washington, and directed that a reduction in our advertising appropriation be made as of February 15, 1945. The appropriate sub-committees were so instructed, with the concurrence of the Area Director of the War Manpower Commission. Each committee has continued its efforts, but the large expenditures on newspaper and radio advertising were stopped.

Since that time your Committee has kept continually in touch with the manpower problem—in the Area and at Regional and Washington levels. A special sub-committee visited Washington to confer with Selective Service, seeking the minimum possible withdrawals of war workers from this Area; and meetings have been held with the Under Secretary of War and with the Deputy Chairman of the War Manpower Commission.

Your Committee is endeavoring to act as liaison between the War Manpower Commission and less-essential employers who are subject to the Minatory Plan—trying to have employers in a particular line of activity treated as a group rather than as individual employers. In this we have enjoyed the complete cooperation of the Area Director and of the groups of employers concerned.

As of March 24th, under the Minatory Plan of the War Manpower Commission, 4,313 employees have been requisitioned from 811 employers; 1,046 have reported to the U.S.E.S. offices and have been referred to war jobs; and of these, 407 are known to be in war jobs. The Area Director feels that the cumulative effect of the program will shortly result in increased placements in war goods employment.

Your Committee will continue to keep in close touch with the situation and, in the interests of the war effort, be prepared to do everything that we can to help get out more war goods. There remains \$45,000.00 in our treasury which will be used—as has every dollar so far expended—only as directed by the Planning and Operating Committee, with the approval of the Finance Advisory Committee. All expenditures are subject to annual audit by our auditors.

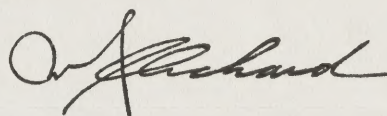
For the wholehearted cooperation that we have received from our contributors, from the hundreds of workers on our sub-committees, and from all elements of our community life, we are grateful.

Our job is far from finished. We will do our best to continue to help, and will keep you informed.

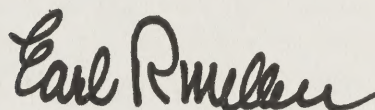
Very truly yours,

COMMUNITY MANPOWER MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

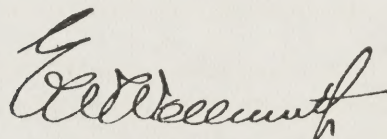
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